

TRANSPORTATION



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On December 22, 1978, the Department of State Highways and Transportation became the Department of Transportation. An amendment to the Constitution of 1963 created the State Transportation Commission.

STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

	Term expires
Betty Jean Awrey, Plymouth	Dec. 21, 1998
JACK L. GINGRASS, Iron Mountain (Vice Chair)	Dec. 21, 2000
LOWELL B. JACKSON, Northport	Dec. 21, 2000
JOHN C. KENNEDY, III, Grand Rapids	Dec. 21, 1998
BARTON W. LABELLE, Mt. Pleasant (Chair)	Dec. 21, 2002
TED B. WAHBY, St. Clair Shores	Dec. 21, 2002

The **State Transportation Commission** establishes policy for the department, its programs and facilities, and other such public works of the state, as provided by law.

The 6 members of the commission are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, for 3-year terms. No more than 3 members may be from the same political party. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

The primary functions of the Department of Transportation are the construction, improvement, and maintenance of the state highway system — the 9,620 miles of interstate, U.S.- and M-numbered highways, and the administration of other state transportation programs. Responsibilities include the development and implementation of comprehensive transportation plans for the entire state, including aeronautics and bus and rail transit, providing professional and technical assistance, and the administration of state and federal funds allocated for these programs. The director of the department is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

The department is composed of 6 bureaus and 6 offices, the International Bridge Authority, and the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

The 6 offices are the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, Governmental Affairs, Human Resources, Information Management, Quality and Reengineering, and the Office of Communications.

The 6 bureaus include the bureaus of Aeronautics, Finance and Administration, Highway Operations, Highway Technical Services, Transportation Planning, and Urban and Public Transportation.

The **Bureau of Aeronautics** administers airport and aviation financial and technical assistance programs throughout the state. The bureau is responsible for airport construction assistance programs; aircraft registration; airport and flight school inspection; licensing of airports, airport managers, flight schools, and aircraft dealers and manufacturers; accident prevention programs; aerospace education; installation and maintenance of navigational aids; air transport of state officials; and development of new programs for the improvement of aviation in Michigan.

AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

General Public	Term expires
ROBERT G. BENDER, Middleville	. May 27, 2000
ALICE J. GUSTAFSON, Pontiac (Vice Chair)	. May 27, 2003
LOWELL E. Kraft, Pigeon	. May 27, 2000
Frederick C. Rakunas, Eastport (Chair)	. May 27, 2003
ARNOLD P. SAVIANO, Harbor Springs	

Department Directors

BRIG. GENERAL RONALD L. SEELY, Deputy Director, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs GUY GORDON, Executive Assistant, Department of Natural Resources CAPT. JEFFREY STEFFEL, Division Director, Department of State Police James R. DeSana, Director, Department of Transportation

The **Aeronautics Commission** was created by Act 327 of 1945. The commission is charged with the general supervision of all aeronautics within the state and is empowered to make and issue rules and regulations governing the location, design, building, equipping, and operating of all airports and other aeronautical facilities; governing the curriculum, equipment, personnel, operation, and management of all schools of aviation; and making such other rules as it may consider necessary to properly carry out the provisions of the Michigan Aeronautics Code.

Of the 9 commission members, 5 are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 4-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed. The other 4 members serve by virtue of their positions in state government.

The **Bureau of Finance and Administration** provides the internal support necessary for the operation of the department. It is responsible for conducting public hearings in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969 and managing the department's capital outlay and highway travel information programs. It is also responsible for accounting services, fiscal reporting, fiscal planning, budgeting, cash management, contract administration, bond financing, property leasing, purchasing, stores control, and all related financial functions.

The Bureaus of Highway Operations and Highway Technical Services are responsible for the design, construction, maintenance, and operation of a statewide system of trunkline highways, roadside rest areas, and providing administrative and technical assistance in the design, construction, and maintenance of city and village streets and county roads.

The **Bureau of Transportation Planning** performs transportation planning for all modes and combinations of modes of transportation. It assists the State Transportation Commission in producing the Michigan Transportation Policy Plan, a comprehensive statement of commission policy. Together, with other transportation providers and with input from the general public, it develops the State Long-Range Transportation Plan required by federal law. In cooperation with Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Rural Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) Task Forces, small cities, and MDOT bureaus, it produces the State Transportation Improvement Program which contains all federal aid transportation projects within Michigan, identifies funding, and schedules these projects for construction.

The Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation provides technical and financial assistance to local transit agencies, intercity bus services, rail passenger services, and freight transportation services. In addition, the bureau regulates the safety of intercity buses, limousines, and rail grade crossings. The bureau also investigates urban and public transportation conditions, recommends appropriate improvements, and establishes public transportation procedures and administrative practices for statewide uniformity, as required.

Regional Offices

Field operations of the department are conducted from 7 regional offices and 21 transportation service centers. The regional offices are located in Escanaba, Grand Rapids, Gaylord, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Saginaw, and Southfield, the latter serving metropolitan Detroit.

MDOT Rest Areas

The department operates 70 freeway rest areas and 85 roadside parks located across Michigan on its state road system comprised of Interstates, M- and U.S.-routes.

The Department of Transportation is responsible for the administration of the International Bridge Authority and the Mackinac Bridge Authority.

INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE AUTHORITY

Michigan Members	Term expires
Shannon B. Brower, Petoskey	June 30, 2003
DONALD P. GUSTAFSON, St. Ignace	June 30, 2001
Francis M. Mansfield, Sault Ste. Marie	June 30, 2003

Canadian Representatives

DAVID GUSCOTT, Toronto Ross Reilly, Sault Ste. Marie

The International Bridge Authority of Michigan was created by Act 237 of 1935. The purpose of the authority, initially, was to investigate, construct, maintain, and operate a bridge connecting the United States with Canada at Sault Ste. Marie. The 2-mile long toll bridge was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$20 million. The authority, since that time, has been responsible for the maintenance and operation of the bridge.

The 3 Michigan members are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 4-year terms. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.

MACKINAC BRIDGE AUTHORITY

	Term expires
WILLIAM H. GNODTKE, Charlevoix	June 30, 2002
Senator Thomas Guastello, Grosse Pointe Farms	June 30, 2004
Angelo S. Lanni, Washington	June 30, 2000
CAMERON G. PRIEBE, Taylor	June 30, 2004
Elsa Schaller, Petoskey	June 30, 2000
MURRAY D. WIKOL, Bloomfield Hills	June 30, 2002

The Mackinac Bridge Authority was created by Act 21 of the Extra Session of 1950. The purpose of the authority, at that time, was to determine the physical and financial feasibility of a bridge connecting the Upper and Lower Peninsulas. The authority was further empowered by Act 214 of 1952 to finance, build, maintain, and operate a bridge. Construction was started in May 1954 and the bridge was opened on November 1, 1957, at a cost of \$100 million, and dedicated on June 28, 1958.

The 6 members of the authority are appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, to serve 6-year terms. No more than 3 members may be from the same political party. Upon expiration of a term, a member may continue to serve until a successor is appointed.